About LEVEL news

## Contents

Water Levels Stable on Upper Lakes - Rise on Lower Lakes

Little Ice Cover on Great Lakes

IJC Begins Investigation

February Precipitation

February Outflows

Water Levels for the Great Lakes and Montreal Harbour
*... a monthly bulletin from Canadian Hydrographic Service*

About the monthly Water Level bulletin

February Precipitation Over the Great Lakes

As a percentage of the long-term February average:

| | |
|---|---|
| Great Lakes Basin | 100% |
| Lake Erie (including Lake St. Clair) | 91% |
| Lake Superior | 153% |
| Lakes Michigan-Huron | 93% |
| Lake Ontario | 55% |

**Note**: These figures are preliminary.

LEVEL news

Great Lakes - St. Lawrence River Water Levels

**Volume 7, Number 3** **March 5, 1999**

**Dry Weather Returns to Basin**

## Water Levels Stable on Upper Lakes, Rise on Lower Lakes

Despite below average precipitation over most of the Great Lakes basin during February, the water levels of Lakes Superior and Huron were stable during the month while they would usually decline, and the levels of Lakes Erie and Ontario went up while they would usually be stable.

While the levels of Lakes Superior and Huron did move closer to their long-term average levels, at the beginning of March they were 20 and 8 centimetres below average, respectively.

Lakes St. Clair and Erie are the only two of the Great Lakes with above average water levels. At the beginning of March the two lakes were 18 and 12 centimetres above average, respectively. Meanwhile, Lake Ontario was 17 cm below average.

Relatively mild weather over much of the Great Lakes basin in February has resulted in a considerable amount of snowmelt, particularly in the southern areas. Runoff from this melt has increased lake levels from what they otherwise would have been. Prior to heavy snowfall during the first week of March, much of the southern section of the basin had very little snow left to melt.

## Little Ice Cover on Great Lakes

Ice cover over all of the Great Lakes was much less than average at the end of February. Lake Erie, Georgian Bay, most of Lake Superior and portions of Lake Huron would typically have 70% to 90% ice cover at this time of winter. However, conditions are much different this year.

While there is extensive ice in the western basin of Lake Erie and also in the northern half of the lake, much of the southern half of Lake Erie has little or no ice. The southwestern portion of Georgian Bay, including the Bruce Peninsula shoreline, also has very little ice, while Lake Huron is almost totally ice-free. Lake Superior has ice covering most bays and in a narrow band along the shoreline, but most of the lake is free of ice.

The limited ice cover on the lakes indicates that there is a possibility the

February Outflows From the Great Lakes

As a percentage of the long-term February average:

| | |
|---|---|
| Lake Superior | 81% |
| Lake Erie | 104% |
| Lake Huron | 112% |
| Lake Ontario | 103% |

**Note**: These figures are preliminary.

Last Issue

Next Issue

Issue Index

Summary information for "LEVEL*news*"

lakes will be completely clear of ice at an earlier time than usual. The shorelines could be fully exposed to waves during the stormy period of March and early April, but the significant decline in lake levels since last spring should reduce the risk of damages to shore properties.

## IJC Begins Investigation

The United States and Canadian federal governments have asked the International Joint Commission (IJC) to examine and report on the consumption, diversion and removal of waters along the common border, including removals in bulk for export. The IJC will begin a major investigation of how Canada and the United States use the waters along their common border by holding public hearings in eight cities.

The request from governments comes in the wake of proposals to export water overseas from Canada, and litigation involving the export of water from Canada to the United States. Both governments are concerned that existing management principles and conservation measures may be inadequate to ensure future sustainable use of shared waters.

The request from the governments asks the IJC to consider the following matters: existing and potential consumptive uses of water; existing and potential diversions of water in and out of the transboundary basins, including withdrawals of water for export; the cumulative effects of existing and potential diversions and removals of water, including removals in bulk for export; and the current laws and policies as may affect the sustainability of the water resources in boundary and transboundary basins.

The public hearings will be held from 7:00 p.m. to 10:00 p.m. at the following Canadian locations:

March 17, 1999, Montréal
Marriott Château Champlain
Caf'Conc' Room
1 Place du Canada
Montréal, Québec

March 18, 1999, Toronto
Crowne Plaza Hotel
Ballroom A
225 Front Street West
Toronto, Ontario

March 22, 1999
Sault Ste. Marie
Ramada Inn
Centre Ballroom
229 Great Northern Road
Sault Ste. Marie, Ontario

March 23, 1999, Windsor
The Cleary International Centre
Room Dieppe A
201 Riverside Drive West
Windsor, Ontario

Written comment may also be submitted at the public hearings, or to the IJC

office during the course of this investigation:

Secretary, IJC
100 Metcalfe St., 18th Floor
Ottawa, Ontario K1P 5M1

Top of Page
Français | Contact Us | Help | Search | Canada Site
What's New | Topics | Publications | Weather | Home | About Us

**part of Environment Canada's Green Lane™**

Webmaster
Last Updated: 2001-01-03
Last Reviewed: 2001-01-03

Important Notices and Disclaimers
URL: http://www.on.ec.gc.ca/water/level-news/lvn99mar.html